

THIRTEEN ENTOMOLOGICAL PAMPHLETS

1655-1846

BY HARRY B. WEISS

"From pamphlets may be learned the genius of the age, the debates of the learned, the follies of the ignorant, the bévues of government, and the mistakes of courtiers. Pamphlets are as modish ornaments to gentlewomen's toilets as to gentlemen's pockets, they carry their reputation of wit and learning to all that make them their companions."—Myles Davies's *Icon Libellorum*.

Pamphlets have always been a part of the circulatory system for the dissemination of entomological knowledge and opinions. Beginning moderately numerically, they eventually reached flood proportions in which volume they have since continued. The present little paper is an attempt to list a few of the early entomological pamphlets in order to indicate, to some extent, the interests of entomologists and readers of the times during which they were published.

In 1874 there appeared in London, "A catalogue of a unique and interesting collection of upwards of twenty-six thousand ancient and modern tracts and pamphlets, collected and arranged by John Russell Smith," who offered them for sale at stated prices. From this catalogue, the thirteen titles were selected. Except for a few additional ones on bees, the thirteen represented nearly all the entomological pamphlets among the twenty-six thousand. The prices following the titles are those that were quoted by Smith in 1874.

1. The Reformed Commonwealth of Bees, with the Reformed Virginian Silk Worm, containing many Excellent and Choice Secrets, Experiments, and Discoveries, for attaining of National and Private Profits and Riches. 1655. 4to. 3s.

This is an abbreviated title. The correct one is "The Reformed Commonwealth of Bees. Presented in several Letters and Observations to Samuel Hartlib Esq. with The Reformed

Virginian Silk-Worm, Containing many excellent and choice secrets, experiments, and Discoveries for attaining of National and Private Profits and Riches. London, Printed for Giles Calvert at the Black-Spread-Eagle at the West-end of Pauls, 1655". The first 64 pages constitute a treatise on bees. This is followed by a second title page that precedes 42 pages of text on the care and breeding of silkworms. The second title, which is long, begins "The Reformed Virginian Silk-Worm, Or a Rare and New Discovery of a speedy way, and easie means. . . . For the feeding of Silk-Worms in the Woods, on the Mulberry-Tree-leaves in Virginia. . . ." and ends "London, printed by John Streater for Giles Calvert at the Black-Spread-Eagle, at the West-end of Pauls, 1655". The statement "to the reader" is signed by Samuel Hartlib.

This publication is an example of the pamphlets printed in England dealing wholly or in part with silk culture and designed to interest the Virginia colonists in the planting of mulberry trees and the rearing of silkworms. One of the earliest of such was a 28 page pamphlet by John Bonoel "Observations to be followed, for the making of fit rooms to keepe silk-wormes in" etc. This was printed at London in 1620, by Felix Kyngston. In spite of such propaganda, the colonists found tobacco to be a more profitable crop than silk.

2. Swammerdam's Natural History and Anatomy of the Ephemeron, a Fly that lives but five hours. 4to. plates. 1681. 1 s. 6 d.

The correct title of this pamphlet is "Ephemerī Vita: or the Natural History of the Ephemeron. A Fly that lives but Five Hours. Written Originally in Low-Dutch by Jo. Swammerdam, M. D. of Amsterdam. London. Printed for Henry Faithorne, and John Kersey, at the Rose in St. Paul's Church-yard, 1681". This had originally appeared in Low-Dutch in 1675 as a work of 420 pages. Its extreme length was due to Swammerdam's pious meditations and "poetry upon the various accidents of the life, and extraordinary mechanism of this creature". The curtailed 58 page pamphlet with its 5 plates advertised by Smith contains only the "philosophical part, the Natural History and Anatomy of this strange Fly".

3. A Treatise of Buggs, etc. By John Southall. London, 1730. 8vo. plate. 1 s. 6 d.

This pamphlet that was sold for one shilling when it was originally published, was priced at 1 s. 6 d. by Smith, 144 years later. It is about bed bugs and a liquid insecticide which Mr. Southall used against them, a supposedly secret preparation from a person in Jamaica. It includes a long list of charges for ridding various pieces of furniture of them. A detailed account of this pamphlet appeared in the June, 1931 issue of this JOURNAL, 39 (2): 253-260 and also in Dr. F. E. Lutz's "A Lot of Insects" published in 1941.

4. Compendious Account of the whole Art of Breeding, Nursing, and Right-ordering of the Silk-worm [London] 1733. 4to. folding plate. 2 s. 6 d.

5. Natural History of Bugs, containing an account of their Nature, Breeding, Food, Climate, and Prodigious Increase and Multiplication, with Directions to Destroy them. [London] 1736. 8vo. 1 s.

This may be a later edition of Southall's 1730 "Treatise".

6. Enquiry into the Nature, Order, and Government of Bees, with new, easy, and effectual Method to preserve them by Rev. John Thorley. [London] 1765. 8vo. plates. 1 s. 6 d.

This pamphlet is probably a condensation of "Melisselogia, Or The Female Monarchy. Being an Enquiry into the Nature, Order, and Government of Bees", etc., "by Mr. John Thorley. London, Printed for the author. 1744". Thorley was a minister and a beekeeper who lived at Chipping Norton, Oxford County. By 1743 he had had 40 years of experience as a beekeeper.

7. Vermin Killer, being a Ready Way to destroy Rats, Badgers, Otters, Worms, Bugs, &c. [London] 1775. 12mo. 1 s.

The complete title of this 52-page pamphlet is "The Vermin-Killer: Being A very necessary Family-Book, Containing Exact Rules and Directions for the artificial killing and destroying all Manner of Vermin, viz. Bugs, Rats and Mice, Fleas and Lice, Moles, Pismires, Flies, Catterpillars, Snakes, Weasles, Frogs, etc.! This was written by W. W. and printed at London in 1775. Its title page is descriptive of its contents, and its reme-

dies include hellebore, brimstone, glue, salt water, lard, and morning dew.

8. English Lepidoptera, or the Aurelian's Pocket Companion by Moses Harris. [London] 1775. 8vo. 1 s.

Moses Harris was an English eighteenth century entomologist, artist and engraver. His above work, printed in London, 1775 was entitled "The English Lepidoptera, or the Aurelian's Pocket Companion, containing a Catalogue of upward of four hundred Moths and Butterflies &c." Among his works are "The Aurelian or Natural History of English Insects", London, 1766, with 45 plates drawn, engraved and colored by Harris and "An Exposition of English Insects", published at London in 1776.

9. Complete guide to the Management of Bees throughout the Year. By Daniel Wildman. [London] 1799. 8vo. plates. 1 s. 6 d.

10. Hints for Promoting a Bee Society. [London]. 1796. 8vo. plate. 1 s.

11. Kirby and Spence's Appendix to the first edition of Introduction to Entomology. [London] 1817. 8vo. 1 s.

The first edition of "An Introduction to Entomology" by Kirby and Spence was published in London, in 1815. The appendix referred to above was probably Chapter XV of John Freeman's "Life of the Rev. W. Kirby", this chapter dealing with the origin and progress of "An Introduction to Entomology". This appendix was made a part of later editions of the book.

12. Universal Vermin Killer. [London] 1824. 12mo. plate. 9 s.

It is not known if this title has any connection with number 7. Appearing fifty years later than number 7 and being priced at 9 shillings, it was probably an entirely different pamphlet.

13. Curtis's Natural History and Economy of various Insects affecting the Corn Crops in the Field and Granary, including Moths, Weevils, and other Beetles. [London] 1846. 8vo. plates. 1 s.

This pamphlet was probably a reprint of Curtis's paper in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, London, 1845.